

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 15 (Canceled)

1                   16.     (New): A storage control device for storing data communicated from a  
2 host processor, the storage control device configured to:  
3                   store a plurality of response times respectively corresponding to each of a  
4 plurality of storage devices, wherein data sent from said host processor is stored in one of said  
5 storage devices, and said response time of a storage device is a time that elapses from receipt of  
6 an input/output request from said host processor to when a processing result of said request is  
7 sent to said host processor;  
8                   respectively store one or more response-time upper limit values assigned  
9 respectively to one or more files to be stored in said storage devices; and  
10                  determine a target storage device from among said storage devices in order to  
11 store a first file, said target storage device being determined based on a comparison of an upper  
12 limit value of said first file with response times of said storage devices.

1                   17.     (New): A storage control device according to claim 16, wherein said  
2 target storage device is one of which its response time is equal to or less than said upper limit  
3 value of said first file.

1                   18.     (New): A storage control device according to claim 16, wherein:  
2                   said storage control device stores one or more response-time upper limit values  
3 assigned respectively to one or more groups respectively comprising a plurality of files, or one or  
4 more response-time upper limit values assigned respectively to one more groups respectively  
5 comprising a plurality of directories, or one or more response-time upper limit values assigned

6 respectively to one or more groups respectively including at least one file and at least one  
7 directory; and

8               said storage control device further configured to determine a target storage device  
9 from among said storage devices in order to store one of said groups, said target device being  
10 determined based on a comparison of an upper limit value of said one of said groups with  
11 response times of said storage devices.

1               19.     (New): A storage control device according to claim 17, wherein:  
2               said storage control device stores one or more response-time upper limit values  
3 assigned respectively to one or more groups respectively comprising a plurality of files, or one or  
4 more response-time upper limit values assigned respectively to one or more groups respectively  
5 comprising a plurality of directories, or one or more response-time upper limit values assigned  
6 respectively to one or more groups respectively including at least one file and at least one  
7 directory; and  
8               said storage control device further configured to determine a target storage device  
9 from among said storage devices in order to store one of said groups, said target device being  
10 determined based on a comparison of an upper limit value of said one of said groups with  
11 response times of said storage devices.

1               20.     (New): A storage control device according to claim 16, wherein:  
2               in case a plurality of host processors are connected to said storage control device,  
3 said storage control device stores response-time upper limit values assigned respectively to each  
4 of said files respectively for each of said plurality of host processors; and  
5               said storage control device further configured to determine a storage device  
6 function respectively for each of said plurality of host processors.

1               21.     (New): A storage control device according to claim 16, wherein said  
2 storage control device uses an average disk service rate (ADSR) or a throughput instead of said  
3 response time.

1                   22.   (New): A storage control device for storing data sent from a host  
2 processor, said storage control device comprising:  
3                   a computer processor that is configured to perform method steps comprising:  
4                   storing a plurality of response times respectively corresponding to each of  
5 a plurality of storage devices, wherein data sent from said host processor is stored in one  
6 of said storage devices, and said response time of a storage device is a time required from  
7 when an input/output request from said host processor is received until when a processing  
8 result of said request is sent to said host processor;  
9                   respectively storing one or more response-time upper limit values assigned  
10 respectively to one or more directories to be stored in said storage devices;  
11                   comparing said upper limit value of a directory to be stored with each of  
12 said response times of each said storage devices; and  
13                   determining a storage device from said plurality of storage devices for  
14 storing said directory according to a result of said step of comparing.

1                   23.   (New): A storage control device according to claim 22, wherein said  
2 computer processor is further configured to determine a storage device of which said response  
3 time is equal to or less than said upper limit value of said directory to be stored.

1                   24.   (New): A storage control device according to claim 22, wherein:  
2                   said storage control device stores one or more response-time upper limit values  
3 assigned respectively to one or more groups respectively comprising a plurality of files, or one or  
4 more response-time upper limit values assigned respectively to one or more groups respectively  
5 comprising a plurality of directories, or one or more response-time upper limit values assigned  
6 respectively to one or more groups respectively including at least one file and at least one  
7 directory; and  
8                   said computer processor is further configured to compare said upper limit value of  
9 one of said groups to be stored with each of said response times of each said storage devices, and

10 to determine a storage device from said plurality of storage devices for storing said group  
11 according to a result of said comparison.

1 25. (New): A storage control device according to claim 23, wherein:  
2 said storage control device stores one or more response-time upper limit values  
3 assigned respectively to one or more groups respectively comprising a plurality of files, or one or  
4 more response-time upper limit values assigned respectively to one or more groups respectively  
5 comprising a plurality of directories, or one or more response-time upper limit values assigned  
6 respectively to one or more groups respectively including at least one file and at least one  
7 directory; and  
8 said computer processor is further configured to compare said upper limit value of  
9 one of said groups to be stored with each of said response times of each said storage devices, and  
10 to determine a storage device from said plurality of storage devices for storing said group  
11 according to a result of said comparison.

1 26. (New): A storage control device according to claim 22, wherein:  
2 in case a plurality of host processors are connected to said storage control device,  
3 said storage control device stores response-time upper limit values assigned respectively to each  
4 of said directories respectively for each of said plurality of host processors; and  
5 said computer processor is further configured to determine a storage device  
6 function respectively for each of said plurality of host processors.

1 27. (New): A storage control device according to claim 22, wherein said  
2 storage control device uses an average disk service rate (ADSR) or a throughput instead of said  
3 response time.

1 28. (New): A storage control device storing data sent from a host processor  
2 connected to communicate therewith, said storage control device comprising:  
3 a first portion of memory for storing a plurality of response times respectively  
4 corresponding to each of a plurality of storage devices, wherein data sent from said host

5 processor is stored in one of said storage devices, and said response time of a storage device is a  
6 time required from when an input/output request from said host processor is received until when  
7 a processing result of said request is sent to said host processor;

8 a second portion of memory for respectively storing one or more response-time  
9 upper limit values assigned respectively to one or more files to be stored in said storage devices;  
10 and

11 a computer processor in data communication with said first portion of memory  
12 and said second portion of memory,

13 said computer processor configured, in case there is an input/output request from  
14 said host processor in view of one of said files, to compare said upper limit value of said file with  
15 each of said response times of each said storage devices and to determine a processing priority  
16 for said input/output request according to a result of said comparison.

1 29. (New): A storage control device according to claim 28, wherein:  
2 in case a plurality of host processors are connected to said storage control device,  
3 said storage control device stores response-time upper limit values assigned respectively to each  
4 of said files respectively for each of said plurality of host processors; and

5 said computer processor configured, in case there is an input/output request from  
6 said host processor in view of one of said files, to compare said upper limit value of said file with  
7 each of said response times of each said storage devices respectively for each of said plurality of  
8 host processors and to determine a processing priority for said input/output request according to  
9 a result of said comparison respectively for each of said plurality of host processors.

1 30. (New): A storage control device according to claim 28, wherein said  
2 storage control device uses an average disk service rate (ADSR) or a throughput instead of said  
3 response time.